SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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and other South Viet Nam NFL
Missions in foreign countries

OCT 2 1969

Editorial

A JUST STAND AND A SERIOUS ATTITUDE

At the 16th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on May 8, 1969, on order from the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the NFL delegation, presented to the Conference the "Principles and main content of the overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam."

The NFL overall solution comprises 10 points in which the major questions of principle are raised first, namely, to respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, viz. independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam; and the US government must withdraw from South Viet Nam all US troops, military personnel, arms and other war materials and all troops, military personnel, arms and other war materials of the other foreign countries of the US camp without posing any condition whatsoever.

The NFL overall solution confirms that the Vietnamese people's right to fight for the defence of their Fatherland is the sacred, inalienable right of self-defence of all nations. It also points out, "the question of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be resolved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves."

The NFL overall solution raises concrete points to guarantee the exercise of the Vietnamese people's right of self-determination:

— The people of South Viet Nam shall settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference.

— The Southvietnamese people shall decide themselves the political regime of South Viet Nam through free and democratic general elections.

— During the intervening period between the restoration of peace and the general elections, neither party shall impose its political regime on the people of South Viet Nam. The political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality, including those persons who, for political reasons, have to live abroad, will enter into talks to set up a provisional coalition-government based on the principles of equality, democracy and mutual respect, with a view to achieving a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam.

The NFL overall solution makes clear that the reunification of Viet Nam will be achieved step by step, by peaceful means, through discussions and

(Continued on page 10)

⊙ ***The NFL Overall Solution:***
— Our correct position
— Our consistent goodwill and serious intent
PAGE 6

⊙ *The DRVN declares its full approval and unreserved support of the ten-point overall solution set forth by the NFL*
PAGE 8

— What are they doing?

They are preparing for resounding victories of the PLAF — carrying war supplies to the forefront with every means at their disposal: wooden boats, buffaloes, or simply their shoulders.

Nixon administration's criminal escalation in its first 100 days

The Commission for Investigation of the US imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam recently issued a declaration denouncing the Nixon administration's criminal escalation in Viet Nam in the first 100 days since Nixon took office. The declaration, dated April 30, reads:

"IN South Viet Nam, in the past 100 days, the Nixon administration allocated another 98 million dollars toward the equipping of the Saigon puppet government with 300 up-to-date helicopters of UH1 type for the airlifting of puppet troops to massacre the Vietnamese people. Furthermore, it alloted a special credit of 258,000,000 dollars for the modernization of the puppet troops and for the "extra" flights of B.52's. On April 7, 1969, in the US News and World Report press room, US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird declared, "It involves immediately an additional 156 million dollars so far as equipment is concerned, for the South Vietnamese forces". The Nixon administration introduced into South Viet Nam another 3,000 US expeditionary troops, and 1,500 Thai mercenaries to launch big terrorist raids with US battalions operating in cooperation with puppet divisions to round up, terrorize, concentrate and massacre the Vietnamese people within the framework of their "accelerated pacification" plan. It also strengthened its forces with weapons and war means, putting into use the new F.4E jets with greater speed, longer range and greater bomb load than the F.4D, supplied to the puppet with squadrons of bombers of A.37 type. It sent B.52 strategic bombers on round the clock carpet-bombing sorties where tons after tons of bombs have been rained over hamlets and villages, ricefields and even on populated areas situated in the town and city suburbs, destroying and levelling wide areas. The entire world is indignant and denounced the two mass murders of thousands of South Vietnamese patriots at Ba Lang An and Cong H'Ring in the Nixon administrations' first 100 days.

"Under the Nixon administration, the use of toxic chemicals has been greatly intensified; Australian mercenaries sprayed US-made CS toxic chemicals over an area of Nui Dat, Ba Ria province. The Saigon puppet government banned all anti-war songs and records, closed down over 20 newspapers, repressed students and intellectuals, imprisoned Reverend Thich Thien Minh, detained over 50 members of the Buddhist Youth and arrested anyone talking about peace, democracy, neutrality, coalition..., pressganged hosts of doctors, chemists, veterinaries and medical, pharmaceutical and dental students. At the US Senate Armed Forces Committee, US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird breathed out for the United States, the basic problem remains that of achieving permanent South Vietnamese governmental control (i.e. South Viet Nam puppet administration) over the country."

In North Viet Nam, the Nixon administration sent all types of reconnaissanse planes to escalate in their missions over almost all the provinces and towns, Hanoi and Haiphong cities. Apart from the use of tactical planes the Nixon administration had never cease to mobilise B.52 and guns from the 7th Fleet and from South of Ben Hai river to wantonly bombard many populated areas from Vinh Linh to Nghe An with thousands of tons of bombs thus attacking deeper and deeper into the the DRVN's territory.

... By committing such provocative, aggressive and war intensification acts, by piling up its crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, the Nixon administration has revealed the true nature of its perfidious "will for peace". In reality, Nixon's words and deeds in his first 100 days in power clearly testify to the stubbornness of its administration in clinging to South Viet Nam, to its henchmen, and to its policy of negotiation on a "position of strength". It was President Nixon himself who declared that "de-escalation in a guerilla war wouldn't make sense". The Nixon administration cannot take advantage of the "tolerant 100 days" the American people grant to the newly elected president to cover its extremely barbarous crimes in Viet Nam.

With deep hatred and enmity the 31 million Vietnamese people stand like one man determined to inflict due punishment to the abominable US crimes and to take advantage of their successes and spring forward and wipe the US aggressors out of their territory and win total victory".

Soc Trang

Pagodas bombed and shelled, Vietnamese of Khmer extraction massacred

Stepping up their cruel war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the US imperialists and their henchmen have, since the beginning of 1969, air-raided and launched "sweeps" against many areas (in Soc Trang province) peopled with Buddhist Vietnamese of Khmer extraction, causing a lot of human and material losses.

According to Giai Phong Press Agency, on February 27, 6 jet planes, 3 helicopters and 1 reconnaissance plane fired rockets and dropped 5 tons of explosive and napalm bombs on O Chum pagoda area in Vinh Quoi village, Thanh Tri district, Soc Trang province.

O Chum Pagoda, a cultural work build some hundred years ago, has been considered a holy sanctuary by 4,000 Vietnamese of Khmer extraction in this area. It was destroyed by bombs, its alters and Buddha statues broken to pieces. Many houses in the neighbourhood were reduced to ashes or heavily damaged. There were 12 dead and 19 wounded, most of them old folk, women and children. 35 houses, deal of property and food were burnt.

After the bombing, O Chum Pagoda and many houses were plundered by enemy troops.

At 16:00 hours on March 17, SireiSophol Pagoda built in 1947 was bombed: 3 towers, the guest-house, the front sanctuary, many Buddha statues, 1 school and 16 houses of the population in the area were reduced to ashes.

At 06:00 hours on March 31, US bombs struck Di Quan Pagoda in Ninh Phu hamlet, Binh Quoi village (Phuoc Long) burning down a pile-dwelling, destroying the front sanctuary with many Buddha statues. Danh Kim Yen aged 63, was killed: 1 woman wounded, food and property in the pagoda burnt down.

Let us recall that on the night of March 16, tens of cannon shells lobbed on Di Quan Pagoda had killed 2 Buddhist Vietnamese of Khmer extraction and wounded another.

In 1968, in Soc Trang province alone, 23 pagodas of the Vietnamese of Khmer extraction were shelled and bombed.

Harbouring the deepest hatred for the US imperialists and their henchmen who have piled up monstruous crimes against freedom and belief, the Vietnamese monks and people of Khmer extraction have closely united to stay the bloody hands of the enemy.

Such scene will occur so long as the US aggressors do not pull out of South Viet Nam and Thieu - Ky - Huong remain in power.

News in brief

In spite of fascist measures taken by the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, the worker movement in Saigon keeps surging ahead, especially on the occasion of May Day this year.

On the morning of Sunday April 27, the US Colonel commanding the Transportation and Communication group No 125 office regulating the loading and unloading at the port of Saigon-dismissed 400 workers without giving any reason.

This arbitrary decision roused the indignation of 5,000 workers in the port who went on strike and demanded that a weekday be chosen as a holiday.

— On the morning of May 1, at a rally of 5,000 representatives of 123 Saigon trade union held at the seat of the Federation of Trade Unions, a few henchmen of notorious traitor Tran Quoc Buu, who passes himself off as a workers', leader put forward demagogic slogans aimed at dividing and misleading the worker movement in Saigon. Their perfidy was immediately exposed. After a heated debate, progressive slogans were approved. The representatives demanded the right to share in the management of the factories, the amendment of the labour law, the fixing of a minimum wage, the right to organize trade union. They protested the "general mobilization" order affecting even 50-year-old workers.

— On the morning of April 22, over 300 workers of the depots of a US commercial enterprise at Thu Duc went on strike, demanding improved living conditions.

— In their petitions, the workers of the Bastos Tobacco Factory demanded monthly wages and a pay rise of 20 per cent. They also demanded a 10 per cent increase in medical allowances and whole pay in case of illnes.

— On April 28, over 200 workers of the Thanh Phuoc Textile Factory struggled for wages corresponding to the cost of living. As a result the workers were given a pay rise of 30 piastres a day as from May 1, 1969.

GUERILLA WARFARE in South Viet Nam

(FIRST QUARTER OF 1969)

LIKE a sharp knife, guerilla war has in *the first quarter of this year* nicked the enemy everywhere, from Quang Tri province in the North to Camau in the South, from the High-Plateaux to urban centres in the plains like Saigon, Da Nang, Hoi An, Qui Nhon, Hue, Cam Ranh, etc.

Guerilla war foils enemy "accelerated pacification" and counter-attacks, and helps popular uprisings.

From January 13 to February 2, guerillas in Ba Lang An area (Quang Ngai province) wiped out 400 enemy troops among them 391 GIs engaged in a "pacification" operation. In these actions, the guerillas also shot down 13 aircraft. Countering a similar raid in the western part of Tuy Hoa district, Phu Yen province from January 28 to February 2, the guerillas and regional forces killed or wounded 250 raiders including 140 Pak Jung Hi men.

In six days of January and February guerillas in Cu Chi district (Gia Dinh) put out of action 250 enemy and destroyed 6 armoured cars and 2 big guns. In Go Cong, Kien Tuong and Kien Phong, guerillas in the first half of January caused to the enemy the loss of 1,430 men, 11 aircraft and one war vessel. Meanwhile, guerillas operated in force South and North of Highway 4 in My Tho province, putting out of action, from January 7 to 17, many enemy troops.

Operating deep behind enemy lines, guerillas in An Giang province kept the enemy in constant fear. A single guerilla attack on the night of March 23-24 on the Tam Soc post in Soc Trang province cost the enemy a whole "pacification" company, many troops, 03 guns and a rocket ramp destroyed. Enemy raids on rubber plantations in Binh Long, Bien Hoa, Ba Ria, Long Khanh, Thu Dau Mot and Tay Ninh were broken one after another by guerillas operating on their own.

Guerillas also joined the PLAF main force in fighting off large-scale operations of the enemy. During the enemy sweep in Co Ca Va area in the western part of Thua Thien province, the guerillas alone accounted for 200 enemy killed or wounded, and 2 helicopters downed with infantry gun fire.

In the 14 days ending March 8, guerillas in *the western part of Nam Bo* (South Viet Nam proper) put out of action 2,100 enemy including 7 «pacification» teams completely disbanded, knocked down 3 aircraft, sank or shot ablaze 23 war vessels, and destroyed or damaged 20 military vehicles. Taking advantage of the enemy's disarray, people in over 80 «strategic hamlets» rose up to break the enemy's grip.

In *the central part of central Viet Nam*, with the effective co-operation of the guerillas, PLAF main force units in the month ending March 23 smashed the US-puppet's control over 216 concentration camps and «strategic hamlets».

GUERILLAS HIT ENEMY RIGHT IN THEIR STRONGHOLDS.

Even Saigon, the last «strategic hamlet» of the enemy, is no longer immune from attacks by guerillas and homeguard forces. Many enemy troops were wiped out in January in the 5th Precinct. Also in the 5th Precinct, guerillas on March 31 assaulted the Nguyen Van Hoa police post and an enemy unit at the Post Office. A raid on a billet of the US 25th Infantry Division in Dong Du on January 3 saw the end of 71 GIs.

In Tay Ninh, guerrillas once attacked the HQs of the puppet 9th Paratroop Division, causing 250 casualties to the enemy.

32 lightning attacks were launched by guerillas on enemy urban positions in the central part of Central Viet Nam from February 23 to March 18. Enemy positions in Binh Thuan, Da Nang, Hoi An, Quang Ngai, Qui Nhon, Da Lat, etc. were also subject to constant guerilla harassment.

Guerillas took part in the simultaneous attacks on the night of February 22 on the enemy in the provincial capitals of Ben Tre, My Tho, Cao Lanh, Moc Hoa, Chau Doc and Go Cong in the Mekong River delta.

DEFEATING ALL ENEMY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS.

Guerilla warfare has disjointed every offensive strategy and tactic of the US and its puppets such as the «leap-frog», «heliborne», «river assault» and «dug-in» tactics. The annihilation of whole US and puppet platoons has become more and more frequent. In a counter-raid action in the Co Ca Va area, guerillas and regional forces in Quang Tri, Thua Thien and Hue put out of action 4 US platoons. On February 11 in particular, a whole US company of Battalion A, US 9th Marine Regiment, was wiped out by guerilla and regional forces.

With their skilful combat methods, guerillas in the Mekong delta foiled the «river assault» tactics. Ham Luong, Ba Lai, Mang Thit rivers were the scenes of glorious exploits won by the guerillas. Sometimes the latter destroyed as many as 10 vessels and hundreds of enemy troops in a single action.

In the first ten days of February, guerillas in Kien Tuong shot down with infantry weapons 9 US helicopters, and killed or wounded 150 enemy troops. Guerillas in Long Hiep and Binh Thanh villages (Kien Phong) at a time brought down 9 US helicopters just as they were landing. Guerillas in Cai Lay district (My Tho) shattered 6 helicopters in two days, and killed or wounded 210 GIs. Guerillas in Ben Tre province captured the headlines by shooting down altogether 33 copters in February and March 1969. Those in Thanh Tan village (Mo Cay district) used hornets trained by them to break a raid conducted by a US company.

With the new capabilities acquired during the past Tet offensives, guerilla warfare in South Viet Nam will certainly do a bigger share in bringing the US and its puppets to complete defeat. (GPA).

US MARINE POSITION OVERRUN

(Combat account by G.P.A.)

The fate of E company, 1st Battalion, US 3rd Marine Regiment, was sealed on April 3, 1969.

By 3 a.m., the PLAF had surrounded Hill 325 (Quang Tri province) and taken up their combat positions. The whole camp, with its headquarters bristling with radio antennas and troops tents flapping in the wind, was in a slumber.

At 3.15, the first rounds ripped the stillness of the night, and the liberation army units dashed in each with a clearly detailed task. The "leathernecks", jumping out their cots, dashed for their bunkers only to be annihilated with grenades and plastic charges. The command bunker was destroyed right in the first minutes.

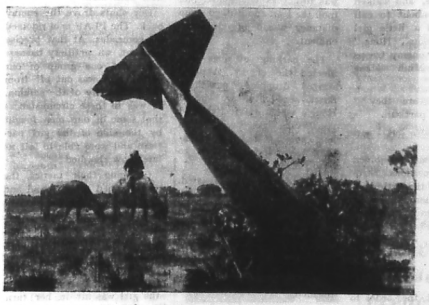
The hill rung with battle cries from the liberation fighters.

Platoon One rushed in like a whirlwind. A 3-man group ran down the stairs leading into an underground ammunition dump while another group turned left to tackle two other bunkers from which GIs were still firing.

An enemy machinegun nest suddenly spoke up from on elevated place. A PLAF fighter jumped up from a trench ball of orange fire rose up from the gun nest, while a group of attackers ran up the slope.

Four GIs in underclothes ran of their hiding place, one of them firing his carbine in the direction of the PLAF platoon leader. The latter from his automatic rifle sprayed a full burst on the fleeing aggressors, knocking down all the four.

A blue flare shot up into the sky, announcing the fall of the enemy position. The whole company of US Marines was wiped out. It was half past three in the morning.



A US up-to-date reconnaissance plane brought down by guerillas' rifle shots.

An enemy sub-sector HQ (in Tay Ninh province) shelled by PLAF artillery

THE GIRL PARTISANS OF SAIGON

A Suzuki motorcycle running at breakneck speed stopped in front of us. A young girl was riding it.

"Your papers, please," said one of our men. But the girl merely smiled at him. Then she fished out of her pocket a red handkerchief folded like an armband.

"I am one of your people," she said proudly.

"But you must have some paper!"

"No, nothing but this red armband. And..." She unbuttoned her jacket a K-54 pistol was strapped on her hip.

"I'm coming to contact you," she added.

The spring breeze was playing in her hair and the sun on her cheeks: she was a nice-looking girl.

She joined our group, which was holding a street. However, she kept coming and going, bringing us cigarettes, candies, drinking water... "How impatiently we have been waiting for you!" she said. "We'd thought you'd have been here yesterday afternoon!"

At one point, she came back with three or four pairs of sandals, which she wanted to give us. But we laughingly told her, "Thanks a lot, but we can't fight with this kind of sandals on! Besides, we'd need about a hundred pairs!"

She was not very talkative, but a smile was often on her lips. She was not perhaps used to living among so many people. She stayed with us and rendered us all kinds of services. When the enemy started their counter-attack, we advised her to return to her base when it was still time.

She straddled her Suzuki and started the engine. Then she turned to say good-bye and was off. We saw her red arm-band disappear at the corner.

As I followed the young girl with my eyes, a strange feeling of happiness welled up in my heart. Was she feeling too, as I was, that today was a kind of festival?

We set up our command post at the abondoned house of a puppet captain. The men were quartered in other deserted houses, which had belonged to enemy officers, police agents or other thugs.

Our guide, a young girl, stood before a mirror wardrobe, combing her hair: it was she who had taken us here during the night. She had a green shirt on. One of the men asked her, "Wasn't it you who were at Thuan Kieu two days ago? You're riding a Suzuki, weren't you?"

The girl winked at me, before answering, "You're mistaken. Must be someone else."

"But..."

"It must be some other Saigon girl. So many are riding Suzukis there days."

As the men laughed good-humouredly, she walked to the window to look at the street below. It was deserted. Road-blocks had been built, which seemed to defy the enemy. A gust of wind made dead leaves swirl. Leaflets dropped from an enemy plane were eddying in the air. A cat came and rubbed its head against the girl's leg.

"You're a remarkable shot," someone said to the girl. "When did you learn to shoot?"

The girl turned. The men observed her with smiling sympathy. She looked at the questioner, and before answering, took the cat in her arms.

"Very recently, she said at last.

Suddenly, she started talking. Never had she talked so much.

"We'd never thought we'd have to fight some day," she said. "At the school where I was, the girl students contented themselves with dreaming about the day when we would be welcoming you into the city. When and how? Nobody seemed to know. One said she would bring you candies and drinks, all kinds of refreshments. Another said she would set off a lot of crackers. It was rather foggy, wasn't it? Finally we decided that we'd bring garlands and put them on your shoulders..."

"Well, where are the flowers?" asked the men mischievously.

The girl blushed and smiled. All vanted her to say more about herself, but she eluded their questions, mindful of this principle of under-ground revolutionary work: secrecy.

"My father is doing the same kind of work as you're doing," she said. "My home is not far from here."

"Tell us your name, at least!" pleaded the men.

"Well, just call me the partisan. Isn't this enough?"

"You might as well wear a mask!" said a young man in a sullen voice, and walked away. She was about to call him back when a little girl dashed into the room. "Hong," she called out, "enemy troops have reached Minh Mang street!"

"How many are they?" asked the girl partisan.

"I don't know, but I saw tanks too,"

The PLAF men rejoined their combat positions. Stroking the hair of the little girl, Hong told her, "Keep a sharp watch. I'm going to see the commander."

Here and there, F.79 shells were bursting.

We received the order to go to Nga Bay. A general check-up was carried out on weapons and equipment. I was trying to find a red armband for myself when Hong turned up.

"What are you looking for?" she asked.

"A red armband, of all things!"

She took her red handkerchief from her pocket, fold d it and handed it to me. "Here you are!" she said.

I hesitated. It was too pretty a little thing to be used as an armband. Besides, she might need it herself. But I could not give it back to her for she had run away.

Later, I met her at the new sector. When I gave the handkerchief back to her, she said "Keep it. You need a red armband for your work."

"It's so pretty I am afraid you'd hate to lose it. Besides, I don't need it any more."

"Well, it's not so much because it's pretty, "she replied." It's a souvenir, you see. It has a glorious history, for having been present in innumerable propaganda actions before Tết. I like to wear it this way..."

She tied the red handkerchief on her arm...to my eyes it looked like some kind of jewel!

Night had fallen. The girl was to act as our guide. She took the lead and walked some distance ahead of our detachment.

The barking of dogs had alerted the enemy. A plane started dropping parachute flares. Suddenly, we heard Hong's voice: "But I've told you," she was saying in a loud voice, "that we are taking a wounded civilian to hospital."

We stopped, flabbergasted. What wounded man? We hadn't fired a shot yet.

Angry voices were now replying to Hông: "No, you can't go."

"Please, have mercy for the wounded man, "she pleaded,

"Shut up," cried the voices. "The curfew has begun."

Hông came back and whispered to us to retrace our steps.

"What wounded man were you talking about?" I asked her discreetly.

"Oh, just a tall story I was telling an enemy patrol at a check-point."

She took us on another route. The enemy had deployed into a tight network. As Hông tried to cross a street, an enemy patrol caught sight of her and our scouts.

"Viet Cong! Viet Cong!" they cried out in a frightened voice.

Hông shot up the street-light, and everything went pitch dark. It was then that the voice of a young girl was heard, "Hông, cross the street, quick!"

It was another girl partisan. Standing with her shoulders against a wall, finger on trigger, she made a sweeping gesture to signal us to pass.

Almost the entire column had crossed the street when a flare burst over-head shedding a blinding light. The enemy soldiers were crawling back. The girl calmly fired at them with her carbine. As one of our men came up to her to give his support, she said, "Go with our friends. It's my business to deal with them".

Her shots drove the enemy back. The PLAF man rejoined his comrades. At that precise moment, an artillery barrage fell, and one group of our detachment was cut off from the main body of the column. It was in these circumstances that some of our men fought by the side of the girl partisan and were able to tell us later how she died:

Changing their tactics, the enemy tried to surround and capture her. Several soldiers had come quite near when the girl flicked her bayonet into fighting position. The men stopped dead, except one, who was immediately felled by a burst. However, the girl was hit in her turn. As the enemy rushed on her, a grenade exploded.

In our liberated zones

REVOLUTIONARY POWER BROADENS AND STRENGTHENS

Hong and other PLAF men returned. The wounded girl had kept her weapon tightly clasped to her chest. Her eyes shining like stars, she mustered her last bit of strength and whispered, "Make haste !" Her hair was caked in blood, dust and gunpowder. After the girl had breathed her last, Hong stood up. "Tell the men in front to go straight ahead and double quick !" she said.

BAY took me on his Honda motorcycle to see the comrades in the Nth ward. After turning into a back alley, he slowed down. A young girl with a red armband signalled us to stop. Bay was about to do so when the girl recognized him and waved us on. In the back alley, comrades were coming and going. They had been quartered in houses in the neighbourhood.

Muoi, Ba and others were having a meeting when we came. Suddenly the noise of an engine was heard. Every face beamed: they must be in pressing need of a car for some urgent matter. All rose and got out. I followed them.

The girl partisan, who had tried to stop us when we came into the alley, was still there. A Jeep loaded with Americans was waved to a stop. Three girls appeared from nowhere and pointed their guns at the bewildered Yanks : they couldn't understand how such a thing could happen to them in downtown Saigon, and at the hands of Vietnamese girls at that !

At any rate, all they could do was to obey the order given them to stand still and raise their hands. Then Hông told them something in English and they were taken away by the PLAF men. As the young girls went back to their positions, some PLAF men jumped onto the Jeep and drove away.

It seemed to me I had met one of the girls before. Oh yes, now I remembered. I had seen her at the Cho Lau bus station on the very first day of the PLAF attack. She was wearing a chequered shirt that day and was looking at American dead and wounded ferried there by helicopter. As she told me now, she had been trying to reckon enemy losses, posing as a mere onlooker !

"If at the bus station I had known who you were," she added, laughing, "I'd have frightened you out of your wit !"

That night, we received the order to withdraw from the city. Girl partisans, wearing red armbands, were marching in the reverse direction, towards the centre. One of them was singing. "Let's liberate the South !", the NFL anthem.

As I had been wounded, Hông put me in a private car and sat at the wheel. She was dressed like a college girl. At an American military police check-point, she slowed down and leaned out of the window. She seemed to know the MPs well and talked to them freely in English.

"I'll come back in a few moments. Wait for me, all right ?" she said finally, and drove off.

LAM TAN TAI

ONE of the great and all-round victories won in the 1968 general offensive and simultaneous uprisings of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces is precisely the coming into being and rapid growth of the People's Revolutionary Councils and People's Revolutionary Committees at all levels.

To date, over 1,000 People's Revolutionary Councils, People's Revolutionary Committees at village, district, province, and municipal levels have been set up in South Viet Nam and their birth constitutes an event of great historical significance.. They represent the people's genuine revolutionary power because they have been elected by the people through free, democratic and universal suffrage and right in the course of the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings.

It is a revolutionary power entrusted to worthy representatives of the people including representatives of various nationalities and religions, heroes and individuals who have rendered meritorious services to the Revolution, all trained and matured in long and hard revolutionary activities, noted for their brilliant deeds in the struggle against the US aggressors and for national salvation and determined to serve the people devotedly.

In Central Trung Bo, women account for from 30 to 50 percent of the members of councils and committees. At all levels, the revolutionary power is bending all energies to organize and lead, stimulate and exhort the people to march forward to bring the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings to completevictory, build an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam and advance towards the reunification of the Fatherland.

Deeply conscious of their sacred duty as citizens and of the great role of the revolutionary power, all the people living in liberated areas, city outskirts, road-junctions near areas repeatedly bombarded and a certain number of areas still controlled by the enemy, have surmounted all difficulties and braved the fierceness of the war to take part in the elections.

Roughly speaking, at least 90 percent of the voters have gone to the polls and in the Western Highlands some localities recorded 100 percent of votes. This fact shows that the people eagerly demand the setting up of a revolutionary power.

STRENGTHENING THE REVOLUTIONARY POWER

AS a leading organ elected by the people to serve the people, the revolutionary power at all levels shows a great vitality, a high efficiency and deserves the confidence of all. Immediately after their coming into being, the People's Liberation Councils and People's Liberation Committees at all levels have proclaimed the abolition of the puppet administration in their localities. This is a deadly blow dealt at the US scheme of aggression because the Americans have always regarded their attempt to stave off the collapse of the puppet grass-root administration as one of the strategic aims of their policy of aggression in South Viet Nam.

The revolutionary power has started on time organizing, leading and exhorting the people to build and develop their armed, political and economic forces, to correctly carry out the NFL's policies towards all religions, nationalities, puppet soldiers and officers, and the puppet police, with a view to strengthening the nation-wide union, defeating the US scheme of aggression, overthrowing the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration and restoring peace with independence and freedom. To preserve all the achievements they have won, the revolutionary bodies at all levels have endeavoured to build and develop their armed forces and home-guard units, their village structures, their fighting hamlets and step up guerilla warfare...

Under the leadership of the revolutionary power at all echelons, the village guerilla forces in the Mekong delta, North Long An, South Gia Dinh, Central Trung Bo and the Western Highlands... have rapidly grown up. In Quang Ngai province, the revolutionary power has started a movement for the building of hamlets and villages, politically, militarily and economically strong so as to serve the front. Thanks to their mighty armed forces, the People's Liberation Committees have successfully led the population to break all enemy counter-attacks and control and nibbling attempts, punish cruel puppet agents and spies and foil the perfidious US puppet "accelerated pacification" program and "Phoenix" terror operations.

A NEW WAY OF LIFE

PARALLEL to the setting up of armed forces, the revolutionary power at all levels has initiated the people to the rational use of manpower and material resources, development of collective labour, improvement of technique, intensification of cultivation and increase of production. In Tra Vinh, Ca Mau, Ben Tre, My Tho and Kien Phong alone, the peasants have organized 2,500 new mutual-aid teams with over 40,000 members. In 1968, farmers in Tay Ninh and Rach Gia succeeded in doubling the rice acreage in comparison with the previous year.

While speeding up production, our fellow countrymen have done their best to develop their educational, health and cultural services. In defiance of bombs and shells, the people in liberated areas have set up thousands of schools and classes for general, ABC and complementary education, and many infirmeries, maternity houses and mobile medical teams... Following the founding of the revolutionary power in Song Doc district, Ca Mau province, 107 schools and classes have been opened, raising the actual figure high above that before the widespread attacks of 1968.

In Central Nam Bo (provinces south of Saigon — Ed.) over 1,000 classes with over 32,000 pupils are functioning. The national minorities in the western Highlands continue to set up new schools teaching their own languages. Hundreds of thousands of people and cadres are attending the ABC and complementary education classes run by the revolutionary power. Mobile medical teams, shock art ensembles, movies and slide show teams and exhibitions are operating in all localities. Many of them work in remote hamlets operating in all localities, or even in combat trenches to entertain the people and fighters.

Besides, to meet the earnest demands of the widespread attacks and simultaneous uprisings, the revolutionary power at all echelons has exhorted the population to bring an active contribution of manpower and material resources—to the Revolution under the slogan "All for the front, all for victory".

Young men and women enthusiastically enlist in the liberation army, guerilla, home-guard and shock youth forces, and volunteer supply teams to serve the front.

With the impetus of the big and all-round victories won last year by the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam through the widespread attacks and simultaneous uprisings, the revolutionary power is surging ahead, bringing a radical change to the political life and other fields in the liberated areas and making the people master of their land.

The liberated zone is being strengthened and widened while the US-puppets' control is gradually reduced and confined to the towns and cities. All efforts are being made to create favorable conditions for the development of the revolutionary power in scope as well as in depth. Where the light of the revolutionary power shines, the gloomy spectre of the enemy's grip vanishes. Max Clos, a French journalist in his article published in "Le Figaro" on December 10, 1968, recognized that "The Liberation committees at district and provincial levels established by the Viet Cong represent an administration in-the-making of the NFL, a memorable victory of the NFL and an undeniable failure of the US and Saigon. (the puppet administration — Ed.).

An elite fighter, she has taken an active part in the defence of her village and the revolutionary achievements.

Liberation Radio releases French language broadcasts

— LIBERATION RADIO, the Voice of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, releases as from today daily broadcasts in the French language.

The broadcasts are from 2.30 to 3.00 hrs Indo-China time or from 19.30 to 20.00 hrs GMT on the 25 and 30.5 meter bands or 12.000 and 10.224 kilocycles, and from 5.30 to 6.00 hrs Indo-China time or from 22.30 to 23.00 hrs GMT on the 30.5 and 40.5 meter bands or 10.224 and 7.416 kilocycles.

LIBERATION RADIO asks its listeners to write to it through the Information Bureaux or Permanent Missions or Representations of the NFL abroad.

After a successful attack.

Photo : GPA

THE NFL OVERALL SOLUTION :

* Our correct position,

* Our consistent goodwill and serious intent

Following is the full text of the speech delivered on May 8, 1969 by Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation delegation at the 16th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

THE US MUST BE HELD FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEADLOCK IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM.

By waging its war of aggression against Viet Nam, the US has grossly trampled underfoot the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law, and has perpetrated abominable crimes against the Vietnamese people. Exercising their sacred right to self-defence, the people of South Viet Nam as well as the entire people of Viet Nam, united as one man, have risen up to resist US aggression and save their country. Under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam NFL, the valiant resistance war of the South Viet Nam people has won great victories.

Having sustained serious defeats in its aggressive war and faced with the strong demands of the people in the United States and the world, the US was compelled to cease unconditionally its bombardments over the entire territory of the DRVN and to accept to holding of the Paris four-party conference with the participation of the delegates of the South Viet Nam NFL so as to find a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam problem.

To provide a basis for a correct solution of the South Viet Nam problem, on November 3, 1968, the South Viet Nam NFL made public its five-point position. Proceeding from that position, the delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL with seriousness and goodwill, has for more than three months been making unceasing efforts to help the Paris Conference move forward, so as to promptly put an end to the US aggressive war, and restore peace in Viet Nam.

But what has the US done in the meantime ?

Though compelled to take part in this conference, it has continued to intensify its aggressive war and tried to maintain its neo-colonialist regime in South Viet Nam.

During the presidential election campaign, Mr. Nixon promised to bring peace to Viet Nam. Since his coming into the White House, he has many times spoken of "peace", and recently about a "peace programme" for the Viet Nam issue. However, the Nixon administration has acted quite contrary to its words.

In South Viet Nam, the US has stepped up its aggressive war, displaying unprecedented fierceness. It has not ceased to send more US and satellite troops, more weapons and war means to South Viet Nam, and has increased the budget for that war. American troops have been sent on sweep operations everywhere, and all types of aircraft, particularly B.52s, concentrated to conduct day and night savage air bombings over densely populated areas. The regions along the sea and rivers, and around American bases have been subjected to shellings by US warships and heavy artillery. Such barbarous crimes as those perpetrated by the US in Ba Lang An (Quang Ngai), My Thanh Dong (Long An), Kong H'Rinh (Kontum) U Minh forest (Kach Gia), etc., will be condemned for ever by history. The US tries as hard as it can to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong warlike administration, patch up the puppet administration, and strengthen the puppet army, in an attempt to realize the so-called "de-americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war, that is using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese.

At this Conference, the American delegates have evaded the basis questions put forward by the delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL and that of the Government of the DRVN. They distort history, repeat again and again the slanderous allegations that North Viet Nam makes aggression against South Viet Nam, and so-called "concrete proposals" which are in fact unreasonable demands aimed at covering up the US aggression and intensification of the war, and at the same time compelling the Vietnamese people to pay a ransom to the cessation of that aggression. They obstinately claim for "mutual withdrawal" so as to avoid the total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and to refuse to meet the imperative and legitimate demands of the Vietnamese and American peoples, and of progressive opinion in the world.

The Thieu-Ky-Huong administration has executed all the orders of the US in the latter's intensification of the war. They ruthlessly repress the movement of the people in South Viet Nam cities who demand independence and peace. They arrest, torture, detain and deport intellectuals, students, pupils, businessmen, tradesmen, Buddhist monks, Catholic priests, religious people and anybody else who oppose them. They seek every means to disturb the Paris four-party Conference, and has not ceased to justify the US aggression and to maintain American troops in South Viet Nam to get protection from them.

The US policy of intensifying the war and negotiating from a "position of strength" has kept the Paris Conference at a standstill against the desire of the people in Viet Nam, in the US and in the world. But that policy has brought the US heavy failure. Ardently cherishing independence and freedom, the South Viet Nam people have been resolutely pushing ahead their sacred resistance, they have won new glorious victories in their Spring offensive. The US aggressive war is being further driven into an impasse. The military, political and diplomatic difficulties of the US are piling up. No sooner have more than too days elapsed since it came into office, than the Nixon administration has been condemned everywhere in the world and in the US itself. As for the Saigon administration, it has exposed all its traitorous features, and becomes more isolated and weaker than ever before.

Broad sectors of the public opinion in the US and in the world are demanding that the Nixon administration put an immediate end to the aggressive war in Viet Nam, withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and promptly restore peace in Viet Nam.

In order to open the way to the progress of this Conference, as desired by the people in Viet Nam, in the US and in the world, our delegation, by order of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, presents to the Conference the following document of the South Viet Nam NFL :

PRINCIPLES AND MAIN CONTENT OF AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO THE SOUTH VIET NAM PROBLEM TO HELP RESTORE PEACE IN VIET NAM

PROCEEDING from a desire to reach a political solution with a view to ending the US imperialists' war of aggression in South Viet Nam and helping restore peace in Viet Nam ;

On the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people ;

Proceeding from the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and the actual situation in Viet Nam ;

On the basis of the Political Programme and the five-point solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, which are in keeping with the four-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam ;

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation expounds as follows the "principles and main content of an overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam" :

1. To respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, viz., independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

2. The US government must withdraw from South Viet Nam all US troops, military personnel, arms and war materiel, and all troops, military personnel, arms and war materiel of the other foreign countries of the US camp without posing any condition whatsoever, liquidate all US military bases in South Viet Nam, renounce all encroachments on the sovereignty, territory and security of South Viet Nam and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

3. The Vietnamese people's right to defend their Fatherland is the sacred, inalienable right of self-defence of all peoples. The question of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be resolved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves.

4. The people of South Viet Nam settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference. They decide themselves the political regime of South Viet Nam through free and democratic general elections. Through free and democratic general elections, a Constituent Assembly will be set up, a Constitution worked out, and a coalition government of South Viet Nam installed, reflecting national concord and the broad union of all social strata.

5. During the intervening period between the restoration of peace and the general elections, neither party shall impose its political regime on the people of South Viet Nam.

The political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam, that stand for peace, independence and neutrality, including those persons who, for political reasons, have to live abroad, will enter into talks to set up a provisional coalition government based on the principle of equality, democracy and mutual respect with a view to achieving a peaceful, indépendent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam.

The provisional coalition government is to have the following tasks :

a) To implement the agreements to be concluded on the withdrawal of the troops of the United States and the other foreign countries of the American camp, etc.

b) To achieve national concord, and a broad union of all social strata, political forces, nationalities, religious communities, and all persons, no matter what their political beliefs and their past may be, provided that they stand for peace, independence and neutrality.

c) To achieve broad democratic freedoms — freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of gathering, freedom of belief, freedom to establish political parties and organizations, freedom to demonstrate, etc. ; to set free those persons jailed on political ground ; to prohibit all acts of terror, reprisal and discrimination against people having collaborated with either side, and who are now in the country or abroad, as provided for in the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

d) To heal the war wounds, to restore and develop the economy, to restore the normal life of the people, and to improve the living conditions of the labouring people.

e) To hold free and democratic general elections in the whole of South Viet Nam with a view to achieving the right for the people of South Viet Nam to settle themselves their own affairs, in accordance with the content of point 4 mentioned above.

f) South Viet Nam will carry out a foreign policy of peace and neutrality ;

To carry out a policy of good neighbourly relations with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity within her present borders ; to carry out a policy of good neighbourly relations with the Kingdom of Laos on the basis of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

To establish diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with all countries, irrespective of political and social regime including the United States, in accordance with five principles of peaceful coexistence : mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence ; to accept economic and technical aid with no political conditions attached, from any country.

g) The reunification of Viet Nam will be achieved step by step, by peaceful means, through discussions and agreement between the two zones, without foreign interference.

Pending the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam the two zones reestablish normal relations in all fields on the basis of mutual respect.

The military demarcation line between the two zones at the 17th parallel, as provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreements, is a provisional line and does not constitute in any way a political or territorial boundary. The two zones reach agreement on the statute of the demilitarized zone, and work out modalities for movements across the provisional military demarcation line.

h) As provided for in the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, pending the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam, the two zones North and South of Viet Nam undertake to refrain from joining any military alliance with foreign countries, not to allow any foreign country to maintain military bases, troops and military personnel on their respective soil, and not to recognize the protection of any country or military alliance or bloc.

i) To resolve the aftermath of the war :

a) The parties will negotiate the release of the armymen captured in war.

b) The US government must bear full responsibility for the losses and devastations it has caused to the Vietnamese people in both zones.

j) The parties shall reach agreement on an international supervision about the withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the troops, military personnel, arms and war materiel of the United States and the other foreign countries of the American camp.

The principles and content of the overall solution expounded above form an integrated whole. On the basis of these principles and content, the parties shall reach understanding to the effect of concluding agreements on the above-mentioned questions with a view to ending the war in South Viet Nam, and contributing to restore peace in Viet Nam.

THE OVERALL SOLUTION PUT FORWARD BY THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION FULLY MEETS THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE.

THE South Viet Nam NFL which has organized and led the South Vietnamese people in their struggle against US aggression, is the authentic representative of the South Viet Nam people, fully competent to settle all problems relating to South Viet Nam problem proposed by the South Viet Nam NFL once again demonstrates our correct position, and our consistent goodwill and serious intent.

This overall solution ensures the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. It ensures a lasting peace in Viet Nam. It embodies the spirit of broad national concord of the South Viet Nam. It contributes to preserve peace and security in Indo-China and South East Asia, responds to the aspirations for peace of the American people as well as the world's people. This solution creates conditions for the US to put an honourable end to its war, a war which is costly in human life and property, unpopular and prejudicial to the US prestige.

The South Viet Nam NFL is firmly confident that the people of South Viet Nam standing shoulder to shoulder in their common struggle for independence, freedom and peace, will no doubt wholeheartedly support this overall solution.

The South Viet Nam NFL which is closely united with the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces believes that because of its policy of broad national union and concord, all religious, social and cultural organizations in South Viet Nam, all political forces and Vietnamese residents abroad will warmly hailed this solution, and the national-minded and peace-desiring members of the Saigon army and administration will sympathize with it.

The people and governments of the socialist countries and of the peace-and justice-loving countries, the peace and democratic organisations in the world, which have always given vigorous support to the South Vietnamese people's resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation will surely support the overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem put forward by the NFL. Together with the progressive people in the US, those American personalities, intellectuals and clergymen who have voiced their opposition to the US unjust war in Viet Nam and those American servicemen who are fed up with the war of aggression and who desire to be rapidly brought home, will no doubt sympathise with this solution too.

The overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem we have expounded above is very logic and reasonable. The US government must adopt a serious attitude. It must put an end to its war of aggression, abandon its manoeuvre of maintaining neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and respect the right of the Vietnamese people to settle themselves their internal affairs, without foreign interference. Therefore, it must withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops and the troops of the other foreign countries of the American camp, without posing any condition whatsoever.

The US must cease maintaining the present warlike corrupt puppet administration in South Viet Nam. The South Viet Nam NFL support the struggle of the urban population in South Viet Nam for the replacement of Thieu-Ky-Huong, for the establishment of a peace cabinet so as to promptly end the war and restore peace. It is ready to enter into talks with persons of goodwill who stand for peace, independence and neutrality.

If the US government is bent on intensifying its war of aggression, cherishing the illusion of gaining a "position of strength" on the battlefield as well as at the conference table, the people of South Viet Nam, under the glorious banner of the NFL, overcoming all sacrifices and hardship, will continue to step up their fight and will certainly final victory.

Improved "Relations between Thieu-Ky-Huong and their American masters"

(Cartoon from the PLAF Literar and Art Review)

The DRVN declares its full approval support of the ten-point overall sol by the NFL

Following is the full text of the speech delivered by Minister Xuan Thuy, Head of the DRVN Government Delegation, at the 16th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam

EVERYONE knows that it is because of its defeat in the war of aggression and of its failure to subjugate the 31 million people of Viet Nam that the US had unconditionally to cease its bombardments on the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and accept the holding in Paris of a four-party Conference on Viet Nam including the Representatives of the DRVN, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the US and the Saigon administration whose object is to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

But during the last 15 sessions, the US has evaded the key problem, that is to withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever. Moreover, the Nixon administration has been making every effort to intensify the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, it has been doing its best to maintain the warlike and dictatorial Thieu-Ky-Huong administration as a tool for the implementation of the policy that consists in "using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese" under the label of "de-Americanizing" or "Vietnamising" the war, for the furtherance of neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, and for the perpetual partition of Viet Nam. It has feverishly increased reconnaissance flights over nearly all the provinces of North Viet Nam and air raids on a number of places between the 17th and the 19th parallels. What it is trying to do is to gain a position of strength in the battlefield as well as at the Conference table.

Regarding the four-point stand of the Government of the DRVN and the five-points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation—the basis for a correct solution of the Viet Nam problem—, the US representatives have persisted in rejecting them groundlessly and consistently advanced nothing but absurd arguments. They have been putting forward so-called concrete proposals which, in fact, are merely aimed at enabling the US to pursue its war of aggression and neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam under the new plan of the Nixon administration.

This stubborn attitude of the US is the very reason why the Paris Conference has failed to make progress. The American people and the peoples of the world have severely condemned this attitude of the Nixon administration. In South Viet Nam, along with a resolute fight against US aggression a wave of indignation has risen ever stronger among the people in temporarily occupied areas, especially in the cities, demanding the restoration of peace, the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, the establishment of a peace cabinet, and the conduct of serious talks with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Once again to show its serious intent and goodwill and to make the Paris Conference progress, by order of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has at this 16th session expounded the 10 points concerning the "Principles and main content of an overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam."

The Delegation of the Government of the DRVN declares its full approval and unreserved support of the ten-point overall solution set forth by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, because this solution conforms to the four-point stand of the Government of the DRVN:

— that solution actually ensures the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, it embodies the Vietnamese people's sacred right to decide by themselves their own destiny, without foreign interference, as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet nam.

— that solution stresses the Vietnamese people's right to fight for the defence of their Fatherland against aggression and for the achievement of their national rights, it demands that the US government put an end to its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, withdraw from South Viet Nam all US troops, military personnel, arms and war material and all troops, military personnel, arms and war material of the other foreign countries in the US camp without posing any condition whatsoever. It once again rejects the US absurd arguments about "mutual withdrawal" and about a "conditional withdrawal of troops", which in fact consist in equating the victim of aggression-the Vietnamese people- with the aggressor—the US.

As far as the problem of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam is concerned, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam fully shares the view of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation that it will be solved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves.

— that solution sets forth a correct viewpoint as regards the achievement of the South Viet Nam people's right to self-determination, i.e.:

The people of South Viet Nam settle by themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference.

They themselves decide about the political regime of South Viet Nam through free and democratic general elections, through these elections, they will set up a constituent assembly, work out a constitution, install a coalition government etc.

During the period between the restoration of peace and the general elections, neither party shall impose its political regime on the people of South Viet Nam, the political forces representing the various social strata and political trends in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality including those persons who, for political reasons, have to live abroad, will enter into talks to set up a provisional coalition government based on the principle of equality, democracy and mutual respect, with a view to achieving a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam etc.

The Government of the DRVN fully approves of this viewpoint and unreservedly supports the right of the South Viet Nam people, pending the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam, to decide by themselves their internal affairs, without foreign interference.

— that solution stresses that the reunification of Viet Nam will be achieved step by step, by peaceful means, through discussions and agreement between the two zones, without foreign interference. Pending national reunification, the two zones re-establish normal relations in all fields on the basis of mutual respect. They undertake to refrain from joining any military alliance with foreign countries, to allow no foreign country to maintain military bases, troops and military personnel on their respective soil, and not to recognize the protection of any country, or military alliance or bloc.

The Government of the DRVN reaffirms that, according to the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, the military demarcation line between the two zones at the 17th parallel is of a provisional character only, a matter of Viet Nam's internal affairs, and does not constitute a boundary between two states. The statute of the DMZ and the modalities for movements across the provisional military demarcation line as to be worked out by the two zones.

— that solution demands that the US put a final end to all its violations of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN, and that it be held responsible for the damages and destruction it has caused to the DRVN as well as to the South Viet Nam people. This is a very legitimate demand.

I think it necessary to add that the ten-point overall solution advanced by the South Viet Nam NFL is utterly correct because it is based upon the present real situation in Viet Nam. The real situation is that during the past 15 years, the US has sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, infringed upon and undermined the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and has directly waged a war of aggression with more than half a million US expeditionary troops. The real situation is that the South Viet Nam people, under the leadership of the NFL, have waged a war of resistance against US aggression and have recorded many great victories. The real situation is that the South Viet Nam NFL which organizes and leads the South Viet Nam people in their war of resistance, is their authentic representative and is competent to settle all questions relating to South Viet Nam. Any solution that takes no account of these realities is of no value.

The overall solution of the Front is most sensible and reasonable because it responds to the aspirations of all social strata and fully reflects the spirit of national concord in the interest of the South Viet Nam people.

Such an overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem as expounded by the South Viet Nam NFL does not only contribute the restoration of peace in Viet Nam but also opens up a prospect for the consolidation of peace and friendly relations between the three countries in Indo-China and the consolidation of peace in South East Asia.

Everyone can see that, for many years, the US has not only aggressed Viet Nam but has also unceasingly intervened in and aggressed Laos and used the territory of that country to aggress Viet Nam, the US has also unceasingly infringed upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia and threatened its independence and neutrality. The US aggresses Viet Nam in order to aggress the Kingdom of Laos and Cambodia, inversely, it intervenes in and aggresses the Kingdom of Laos, encroaches upon and menaces the Kingdom of Cambodia in order to aggress Viet Nam.

This precisely explains why the Indo-Chinese peoples unite themselves ever more closely to fight against the US policy of aggression, in defence of independence and peace.

As for the Government of the DRVN, it will, as it has done in the past, persist in its policy of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, of respect for the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within her present borders, and in demanding that the US government renounce all acts of intervention in and aggression against these two countries.

The Government of the DRVN hopes that, in their mutual relations, the countries in Indo-China will follow the five principles of peaceful coexistence: mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence. The countries in Indo-China will develop and strengthen their economic and cultural cooperations, establish relations of lasting friendship and good neighbourhood. The friendly relations between the Indo-Chinese countries will be strengthened so that the Indo-Chinese peninsula may become an area of peace and security, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace in South East Asia.

The Government of the DRVN and the Vietnamese people welcome the initiative

and unreserved ution set forth

of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, according to which "the Indochinese countries pledge themselves not to accept foreign troops and military bases in their respective soil and not to join any military alliance". This position conforms to the principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China and of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

The ten-point overall solution expounded by the South Viet Nam NFL is an important initiative.

Can the war in Viet Nam be ended? Can the Paris Conference progress? The answer to these questions now rests with the US.

If the US authorities have a realistic view and approach, if they are determined to stop their policy of aggression in Viet Nam and are ready to settle the South Viet Nam problem in conformity with the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL, peace will be restored in Viet Nam, the US will get out from the costly, unjust and immoral war, and its honour and prestige will be redeemed.

On the contrary, if the Nixon administration obstinately continues its policy of aggression in Viet Nam, if it continues to cherish the illusion of negotiating on a "position of strength", refuses to withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, continues to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration as an instrument for implementing neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, it is sure to sustain heavier defeats.

The Government of the DRVN solemnly calls upon the socialist countries, the nationalist countries, the peace-and justice-loving governments and peoples the world over, and all democratic and peace organizations to support unreservedly the overall solution of the South Viet Nam problem put forward by the South Viet Nam NFL.

The Government of the DRVN and the Vietnamese people especially call on the American people and all peace-and justice-loving Americans to demand, for the sake of the US itself, that the US government take a serious attitude towards the ten sensible and reasonable points of the Front, end its war of aggression in Viet Nam and bring American boys back to their families.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN are firmly convinced that, with the iron-determination of the national union throughout the country to fight against aggression, and with the ever warmer sympathy and support of the peoples of the world, the Vietnamese people's just struggle for real independence, freedom and peace will without a doubt be crowned with victory.

FROM MAY 11, NIGHT, TO MAY 13

PLAF OPERATE WITH RENEWED VIGOUR

Northern Quang Tri: **Many US positions were taken under fire. The Dong Ha base burned violently.**

Central Trung Bo: **The PLAF attacked 5 towns, 18 district capitals and military sub-sectors, 8 airfields, *etc.***

Eastern Nam Bo: **The PLAF blazed away at 30 objectives.**

Central Nam Bo: **30 cantonments and command posts of the US- puppets were put under attack.**

From one end of South Viet Nam to the other, the PLAF's attacks have upset the de'ensive battle order of the US.

Northern Quang Tri — The PLAF on the night of May 11 opened up against the enemy's defence line between Gio Linh and Cam Lo district towns, and along Highway 9, inflicting heavy losses. 6km north of Tan Lam, PLAF infantry knocked out some one hundred GIs, and shot out of the sky one helicopter. On May 12, night, PLAF gunners struck the headquarters of the US 3rd Marine Division in Dong Ha town and a US artillery site southwest of Hue, putting out of action 83 GIs, according to figures by the US Command.

Central Trung Bo — Hell broke loose on more than 160 command posts and military bases of the US on the night of May 11, from northern Quang Nam, across the High Plateaux, to Khanh Hoa in the south. First reports said the PLAF's barrages hit 5 towns (Da Nang, Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, Tuy Hoa and Ban Me Thuot), 8 airfields (Da Nang, Nuoc Man, An Hoa, Chu Lai, Trung An, Quang Ngai, Dakto and Holloway), 18 district towns and military sub-sectors, and various city quarters and logistical depots in Da Nang, Tuan Duong and An Khe. Thousands of US, puppet and satellite troops, and agents of every description were killed or wounded, and large quantities of war materials destroyed.

Eastern Nam Bo — The PLAF on the night of May 11 hit some 30 military objectives in Long An, Binh Long, Tay Ninh, Thu Dau Mot, Bien Hoa and Gia Dinh provinces, causing to the enemy serious losses in lives and matériel. The following night, the PLAF slammed big gun fire into the Tan Son Nhut airbase in Saigon, the HQ of the US 25th Infantry Division in Tay Ninh, and that of the US 1st Air Cav. in Binh Long province.

Central Nam Bo — Subject to attacks were over 30 military objectives in the towns, in military sub-sectors, along strategic roads, and in areas where "accelerated pacification operations" were under way in Ben Tre, My Tho Kien Tuong, Go Cong and An Giang provinces. Among the PLAF's targets were many command posts and cantonments of battalion or regimental levels.

The enemy, though cautious, was caught unawares by the PLAF's concerted attacks breaking out on the entire battlefield. An important part of his live force and war materials were destroyed. Estimates by the US Command put the losses caused by the PLAF shellings alone as the heaviest known.

The new attacks of the PLAF gave the lie to all the claims of the war-maniacs in the Pentagon and Saigon, and came as a severe punishment for the crimes perpetrated recently against the South Vietnamese people. During its first hundred days, the Nixon administration greatly stepped up B52 bombings, using thousands of tons of bombs against the civilian population, while intensifying terror raids on the ground and chemical sprays.

The new attacks have testified amply to the excellent endurance and high fighting spirit of the PLAF, who, firmly maintaining their initiative, have greatly increased their combat efficiency. In a good co-ordination, all the three kinds of people's armed forces have fought very well both in the plains and in the high lands, both in areas surrounding the towns and in the towns themselves, both in destroying the enemy's communication roads and in attacking enemy fortifications. As far as the enemy goes, despite his effort to recoup, his serious losses have pushed him deeper into his quagmire. Even his most secured territory in northern Quang Tri, Hue, Da Nang, Saigon and the surrounding areas were not spared by guerilla warfare, which has been extended to the great cities and their outskirts.

Unless the US aggressors draw an instructive lesson for themselves, they will be beaten even more severely and more humiliatingly.

HOANG SON

MARCHING INTO THE CITY

HOLDING THE RIFLE FIRMLY

Water colour by LE LAM

Editorial

A JUST STAND

(Continued from page 1)

agreement between the two zones, without foreign interference. The military demarcation line between the two zones, as provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreements, is a provisional line and does not constitute in any way a political or territorial boundary. The two zones shall reach agreement on the statute of the demilitarized zone, and work out modalities governing movements across the provisional military demarcation line.

The NFL overall solution also deals with the settlement of the aftermath of the war and the international supervision of the withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the US expeditionary troops and troops of other foreign countries of the US camp.

The NFL overall solution points out concretely that South Viet Nam will carry out a foreign policy of peace and neutrality, will establish diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with all countries, irrespective of political and social regime, including the United States, in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence. It stresses the carrying out of a policy of good neighbourhood relations with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity within her present borders, and with the Kingdom of Laos on the basis of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

The NFL overall solution was worked out on the basis of its Political Program and 5-point solution and are in keeping with the 4-point stand of the DRVN Government. This solution proceeds from the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, from the desire to reach a political solution with a view to ending the US imperialists' war of aggression in South Viet Nam. The NFL overall solution clearly manifests the correct, justice-blazing stand, and the goodwill and serious attitude of the NFL.

LIKE its Political Program and 5-point solution, the present 10-point overall solution of the NFL entirely proceeds from the actual situation in South Viet Nam.

The actual situation is that in the past 15 years, in execution of their scheme to invade South Viet Nam and make it an American new-type colony and military base, the US imperialists have carried out armed intervention, then sent American troops for direct aggression against South Viet Nam, thus blatantly infringing upon Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and running counter to the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law.

The actual situation is that under the glorious banner of the NFL, the South Vietnamese people, united millions like one man, have fought valiantly and persistently against the US aggressors and their flunkeys, and have recorded ever greater victories.

The actual situation is that, sustaining heavy defeats in both zones of Viet Nam, the US was compelled to stop unconditionally the bombing and strafing of the whole territory of the DRVN and to appoint delegates to the four-party Paris Conference to find a political solution to the Vietnamese problem. But the US still obdurately maintains its stand of aggression. With the illusion to win a strong position the US government has endeavoured to intensify the war, schemed to prolong the illegal presence of the US expeditionary troops, tried to cling to the warlike and corrupt puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration so as to materialize the US neo-colonialist domination in South Viet Nam. In fact, since his inauguration as US President, though talking much about "peace" and a "peaceful solution" to the Vietnamese issue, Nixon has beefed up the US expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam, sent here more Thailand mercenary troops, while striving to consolidate the puppet army and supply it with more equipment.

For many months now, by feverishly carrying out the so-called "accelerated pacification program", the US, puppet and satellite troops have intensified raids and persecution and piled up so many crimes against the South Vietnamese people, committing wholesale massacres in Ba Lang An, Kong Ro'Ring, Thai Hiep, U Minh jungle, etc.

At the same time, wanton bombings by B52s have been stepped up for the slaying of the civilian population even in areas around urban centres. In the towns and other occupied areas, the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, lackeys of the US, is making downright repression against all people advocating peace, independence and neutrality, and terrorizing, arresting and jailing all those who demand a peace-restoring cabinet and serious talks with the NFL.

In the meantime at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the representative of the US government has sought ways and means to distort the truth in the hope of whitewashing the US crime of aggression and covering up the traiterous, bellicose features of the lackey Thieu-Ky-Huong administration. The US has made one absurd demand after another in order to evade the basic question, that is as the aggressor, the US must end aggression and pull out all its troops while stiffly refusing to settle peacefully the Vietnamese issue on the basis of the five-point stand of the NFL and the 4-point stand of the DRV Government.

The aforedescribed reality has shown that the origin and immediate cause of the serious situation now in South Viet Nam lie in the US imperialists' policy of aggression and its cruel aggressive war and that the obdurate stand of aggression of the US has prevented the progress of the Paris Conference. In such a situation, the overall solution put forth by the NFL is of paramount importance. In the first place, it eloquently demonstrates the correct stand of the NFL to ensure that Vietnamese people's basic national rights and legitimate aspirations while giving further proof of the NFL goodwill and serious attitude. In the interest of the South Vietnamese people and for the legitimate desire of the American people, the NFL has incessantly endeavoured to help the Paris Conference make headway so that an end may soon be put to the war in South Viet Nam and peace may be restored in Viet Nam at an early date.

The sensible and reasonable measures laid out in the NFL overall solution thorough give a correct idea of the spirit of national concord and the unity of our entire people with a view to the resistance against US aggression, and to their determination to achieve a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nation. The NFL overall solution is a reasonable basis to settle the South Vietnamese issue correctly and will help restore peace in Viet Nam, thus opening up good prospects for the consolidation of peace and security in the Indo-Chinese peninsula and in Southeast Asia as a whole. The NFL overall solution also provides the US government with conditions to stop in an honourable manner its war of aggression which is running counter to human conscience and harming the good name of the American people.

AND A SERIOUS ATTITUDE

AS pointed out by progressive public opinion in the world, the NFL overall solution is an important initiative. It is a new contribution by the NFL to help the Paris Conference move forward, bring the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam to an end, and reach a peaceful solution to the South Vietnamese issue.

The Indochinese peoples have the same enemy—the US imperialist aggressors. On the basis of their time-honoured friendship the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples will stand shoulder to shoulder in the struggle to defend and consolidate their respective peace, independence and territorial integrity. The recent promotion to ambassadorial level of the diplomatic relations between the Cambodian Royal Government led by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the NFL is another splendid manifestation of these firm fraternal relations and friendship.

Progressive people in every continent have been giving their sympathy and support to the South Vietnamese people's sacred resistance war against US aggression for national salvation, people's fundamental national rights and right to self-determination, and withdraw from South Viet Nam all US and satellite troops without any posing any condition. The US government must stop backing the present warlike and corrupt puppet administration in Saigon. The entire South Vietnamese people and the NFL support the struggle waged by the townspeople in South Viet Nam for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, for an end to the US war of aggression, and for the restoration of peace in South Viet Nam.

IF the US government obstinately steps up its war of aggression, persists in its illusion to seek a "position of strength," and continues to obstruct the progress of the Paris Conference, it will hold the whole responsibility for it all and court still heavier defeats. Nothing can prevent the South Vietnamese people from continuing to exercise their sacred right of self-defence. As long as a single US aggressor is left on their beloved land, the Vietnamese people will fight on to drive him out. Strong with the big, all-round victories already recorded and under the NFL banner of a great cause, the South Vietnamese people will overcome all difficulties to bring to complete victory their just struggle for genuine peace, independence and freedom.

THE NFL and the South Vietnamese people's stand is a correct, reasonable and just one. Their attitude is one of goodwill and seriousness. Whether or not the Viet Nam war will be stopped, whether or not the Paris Conference will make progress, depends solely on the US government.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

An US ammunition depot at Da Nang air base blew up by an artillery attack of the PLAF.

THE FIRST REPERCUSSIONS

Premier Ieno Fox of Hungary (May 9)

"We approve of the 10-point global solution proposed by the South Viet NamNFL, as we do the 4-point stand of the DRVN Government and the 5-point stand of the SVNNFL, considering them to be the basis for a settlement to the Viet Nam problem. The 10-point global solution raises points which show the world that the USA cannot elude fundamental questions at the Paris conference. On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Hungary, I voice full approval of the 10-point global solution proposed by the SVNNFL."

(Declaration made when receiving Mr Tran Hoai Nam, Deputy Head of the delegation of the SVNNFL, and Mr Ha Van Lau Deputy Head of the delegation of the DRVN at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam) on a visit to Hungary).

Raul Roa, Cuban Foreign Minister (May 9)

"Cuba's support for Viet Nam has been and will remain unconditional and absolute. We warmly hail the global solution proposed by the SVNNFL, which was presented by Mr Tran Buu Kiêm at the 16th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and stress that this is the only correct solution for a global settlement of the South Viet Nam problem."

(Declaration made when receiving Mr Huynh Van Ba, chargé d'affaires of the SVNNFL, and Mr Doan Van Quy, chargé d'affaires of the DRVN in Cuba.)

Marin Mihai, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Rumanian Socialist Republic (May 10)

"The Rumanian Communist Party and Government have supported, are supporting and will support the Vietnamese people's just struggle in the political, spiritual and material fields. We support the global solution to the South Viet Nam problem proposed by the SVNNFL. We approve of your legitimate demand that the Americans withdraw all their troops from South Viet Nam, for the USA is the aggressor. The Vietnamese people are fighting on their own territory and in no way encroach upon American territory. The internal affairs of the Vietnamese people should be settled by the Vietnamese people themselves without foreign interference».

(Declaration made when receiving Mr Tran Kien, chargé d'affaires of the Provisional Representation of the SVNNFL in Rumania.)

Prince Norodom Phourissara, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia (May 8)

«Cambodia always supports the just stand of the NFL in the just struggle against the American imperialist aggressors and voices its happiness at the new development in the fraternal relations between the Khmer and the South Vietnamese people, following the raising of the Permanent Mission of the SVNNFL in Cambodia to embassy level.»

(Statement made after hearing Mr Nguyen Van Hieu, Head of the SVNNFL Permanent Mission in Phnom Penh, expound the principles and essential content of the global solution to the South Viet Nam problem, proposed by the SVNNFL).

Mamoud Riad, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic (May 10)

«The Government of the United Arab Republic continues its support of the Vietnamese people's just struggle and fully approves of any solution which will lead to the withdrawal by the Americans of all American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. The Saigon puppet government, like the Israel government, is a stooge of the Americans. Therefore the people of the UAR and those of Viet Nam are fighting a common enemy. Although their struggles are still meeting with difficulties, they will certainly end in victory».

(Declaration made when receiving Mr Le Quang Chanh, Head of the delegation of the SVNNFL in Cairo, and after hearing him expound the principles and essential content of the global solution to the South Viet Nam problem, a contribution to restoring peace in Viet Nam.)

Bouteflika, Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (May 8)

On May 8, Mr Bouteflika received Mr Cao Trung Nghia, chargé d'affaires of the DRVN government in Algeria. After hearing him expound the 10-point global solution proposed by the SVNNFL at the Paris conference on Viet Nam to contribute to the restoration of peace in Viet Nam, the Algerian Foreign Minister expressed to Mr Cao Trung Nghia the sympathy of Algeria and complete and permanent solidarity with the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

Radio Moscow, (May 10)

The proposals made by the SVNNFL have put Washington before its responsibilities for peace or war. For a year now, American diplomacy has been hampering the Paris conference, showing no willingness to find a way out of its tunnel. At present, in order to find a way out, the Americans must give up their adventure in Viet Nam, end their aggression, and respect the Vietnamese people's right to settle their own internal affairs.

ADN, Berlin, (May 10)

This plan is a link in a series of initiatives taken by the representative of the Vietnamese people. It is thanks to the proposals made and the negotiative good will shown by the SVNNFL and the DRVN that meetings between the two sides and the four-delegation conference in Paris have been held. The whole development of American aggression in Viet Nam proves that the American government has been unable to put forward any valid proposal for a peaceful settlement.

Asahi Shimbun (May 10)

The proposal made by the NFL should be carefully studied. This proposal is a broad and flexible suggestion. Nobody can oppose the principles contained in this proposal, which has been put forward on the basis of the right of the peoples to self-determination.

French paper Le Figaro (May 10)

The SVNNFL has put forward a 10-point peace program: the Vietnamese will settle together the problem of Vietnamese armed forces. The NFL has stated explicit conditions for a political solution. It has presented this program as extremely important, and so one may think that it may get the Paris conference out of the morass in which it has been mired for several months now.

The Times of London (May 9)

The Viet Nam peace talks in Paris were suddenly revived when for the first time since they began, Mr Tran Buu Kiem, the NFL representative, put forward a detailed plan aimed at ending the war. *(retranslated-Ed.)*

The New York Times (May 9)

The peace plan of the Vietcong may be a very significant step towards a solution for the Viet Nam problem. It contains new elements which may open the way to a quick end to this distasteful war. *(re-translated-Ed.)*

CTK (Washington) (May 10)

Senator Mansfield, leader of the Democratic majority, has described the 10 points of the NFL as a reasonable solution and asked the American delegation in Paris and the American government to pay particular attention to this proposal.

The World's Progressive Press is siding with us

Together with the world's progressive people, revolutionary, or simply honest, journalists in every country have contributed by their articles, photos and films to support and extol the struggle of the Vietnamese people.

It is impossible to enumerate all the articles, reports, special issues, TV and radio programs dealing with our resistance to US aggression.

Over the past years, Liberation fighters and civilian volunteers have more than once warmly shaken hands with journalists coming from distant countries to witness our just struggle with all its trials and hardships. The South Vietnamese people will never forget, among others, such sympathetic guests as W. Burchett, Madeleine Riffaud, R.Pic, W. Monika, R. Marta, R. Valdes Vivo...

As Hosseajee Edoo put it in "Le Journaliste Democratique", organ of the OIJ, November 1968, "Journalists should explore the depth of their conscience if they want to find out the truth". Attached to the truth and revolutionary justice, progressive journalists in the socialist, newly independent and capitalist countries have all denounced the savage crimes and perfidious schemes of the US imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Nam, whether they have or not come to South Viet Nam. By their commentaries and sound argumentation, they have laid bare the US moves aimed at stepping up and protracting their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, stubbornly eluding the fundamental problems concerning a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam issue at the Paris Conference. They have helped public opinion realize the cruel and perfidious nature of US imperialism.

Progressive press everywhere fully approves of and supports the 5-point position of the NFL the gist of which is the unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. It has also pointed out that the US is responsible for the deadlock at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The strong support of progressive journalists to our struggle can be seen through the numberless meetings and activities of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) which has issued repeated statements and resolutions timely denouncing the US-puppet's schemes and crimes against our people as well as the fallacies of the press in the enemy-occupied zone. The IOJ has also time and again called on progressive press the world over to support the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and honest journalists.

The South Viet Nam Association of patriotic and democratic Journalists, camaremen and photographers of Radio Giai Phong (Liberation) and Giai Phong Press Agency have enjoyed a constant support from the progressive press in Asia, Africa, Latin America and all the world over.

Honest journalists in South Viet Nam are deeply grateful for this sincere backing. They pledge to struggle side by side with their people, to deal telling blows at the US aggressors and their henchmen, achieve bigger successes and progress towards the complete liberation of South Viet Nam and peaceful reunification of their country.

HA DUY PHUOC

Woman correspondent:
Sir.... with such a deluge of fire and steel, how can we qualify our casualties?

C.O:
..... Oh!.. yes.. "Light casualties", of course!

(Cartoon from the paper **Giai Phong**)

INDEFECTIBLE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Desirous of tightening further the existing fraternal and friendly relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the authorities of the two sides have decided by mutual agreement to raise their diplomatic relations to ambassadorial level, on May 9, 1969

WHETHER they confront the enemy on the battlefield or in their very lairs—the towns and cities—or are engaged in production and the building of the liberated zone, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam feel very gratified at the news that the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation have just decided to raise their diplomatic relations to ambassadorial level.

So do the many thousands of our nationals in the land of Angkor and also, it is safe to say, the peoples of the whole Indochina.

This diplomatic event constitutes a new splendid development of the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese and Khmer peoples. It meets their aspiration for closer bonds of friendship. It is a contribution to the consolidation and strengthening of the Indochinese peoples' front against stubborn and crafty US aggressor imperialism, and at the same time a heavy blow at Washington's and its henchmen's machiavellian scheme to weaken their long-standing solidarity firm as the Truong Son Range.

By taking the initiative of the said diplomatic move, the Goverment of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk once again reaffirms its recognition of the NFL as the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, fully competent to settle every problem concerning South Viet Nam. The action in question concurrently means that the Cambodia Government regards the Saigon administration, a gang of traitors, as representating nobody at all. In a reception in honour of Mr Tran Buu Kiem, member of the NFL Presidium, on February 18,1968, Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk stated: "The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia always regards the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation as the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, establishes diplomatic relations with it on a State basis, and regards the quisling Saigon administration as a puppet of the Americans, deprived of any value whatsoever."

The new development of the South Vietnamese-Cambodian relations can also be viewed as another success of the NFL line of resistance to US aggression, for national salvation, a success of its external policy, a fact which throws a stronger light on the NFL consequent policy towards the Kingdom of Cambodia, policy reaffirmed once again in the "Principles and main content of the overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam, " namely, " to carry out a policy of good-neighbourhood relations with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity within her present borders".

For many years past, the Khmer people and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, by means of positive actions and friendly words, have indefatigably backed and constantly encouraged our people in their just struggle. They have warmly supported the NFL Political Program and five-point stand. They have always shown themselves sensible to our joys, just as to our sufferings and mournings from the crimes perpetrated by the US aggressor and their lackeys.

The decision of the Cambodia Government and the NFL to raise diplomatic relations to ambassadorial level—another positive step towards the strengthening of solidarity—has come as a stimulus for our armed forces and people in their resistance until final victory.

As Tonlesap Lake will never dry up and the Plain of Reeds will never stop producing rice, so Vietnamese-Khmer solidarity and friendship will flower with every passing day and last for ever.

Sincerely thankful to the people and Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam will, in the flush of their victories, rush ahead to achieve bigger successes to liberate South Viet Nam and reunify their country, thereby also contributing to the safeguard of peace in Indochina and the world.

Representing the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prince N. Kantol attends the inauguration of the Exhibition of South Vietnamese Painters' Works in Phnom Penh.

Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu, Ambassador of the NFL in Cambodia, presents the exhibits to Prince N. Kantol and the Diplomatic corps.

BROTHERLY SUPPORT

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC On the occasion of May day, people in Berlin have raised the motto: "Mark May day with a fund-collecting drive in support of Viet Nam".

On May 2nd, 100 well-known writers, artists and music composers in GDR held the "traditional Book day" on the occasion of May day for the same end.

Likewise, German students have raised more than 5,700 marks for Viet Nam.

It has been announced that the GDR customs personnel raised last year more than one million marks in support on the Vietnamese people.

On April 26, a delegation of the Committee of Action for Peace and National and International Understanding of the W-Berlin socialist united party and other progressive organisations called on the permanent Representation of the South Viet Nam NFL in GDR to hand over 45,000 W-German marks as a gift to the Southvietnamese people.

BULGARIA: According to BTA agency, recently Mme Dauka Ivanova, secretary of the Bulgarian women's committee has announced that within two months Bulgarian women have colected 400,000 leva. The amount is most like ly to reach half a million leva. It will be used for the equipping of two health services in the South Viet Nam liberated areas and providing 200 beds to North Viet Nam nurseries and kindergartens.

CUBA — On the occasion of the presentation of credentials by cuban ambassador Raul Valdes Vivo to President Nguyen Huu Tho Raul Roa Garcia, the Cuban foreign minister, sent to Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, head of the FNL CC foreign relations commission a telegram in which it was stated that the establishment of the Cuban embassy in South VietNam's liberated areas is a brilliant manifestation of the strengthening of friendship between the Cuban Government and people and the South Viet Nam NFL and people.

"In this elating moment we reaffirm our full support to the legitimate demands of the heroic Vietnamese people", he stressed.

HUNGARY — On the occasion of April 24th, Day of struggle against colonialism, the Hungarian communist youth union central committee held a meeting expressing solidarity with the struggling Southvietnamese people.

The HCYU branch at the Meeseki mine, has sent 261,890 florins as a contribution to the struggle of the Vietnamese people. For his part, the HCYU branch at the Miskolc mine has also given 42,000 florins.

POLAND — On April 20, the head of the brigades of voluntary young workers organised in Boalax district, Katowice province a big rally attented by more than a thousand youths coming from all parts of the country.

On this occasion, representatives of the Katowice and Warsaw brigades presented the Viet Nam youth with 80 bicycles.

By the end of April, 500 progressors and students of Poznan politechnic school held a meeting voicing solidarity with the South Vietnamese people and youth.

RUMANIA — According to news reports from Bucarest, Georghe Apostol, member of the Rumanian Committee Party C.C., President of the Rumanian trade-union Central Council, on May first sent a congratulatory telegram to Tran Kien, chargé d'affaires of the permanent mission of the South Viet Nam NFL in Rumania.

After having warmly hailed the big victories of the South Vietnamese people the telegram continued :"Once again I would like to state the support of the Rumanian trade unionists and workers to the Vietnamese people's struggle against the US aggressors and for freedom and prosperity.

PHILATELY

Before succumbing to the enemy's bullets, the young Saigon electrician Nguyen Van Troi evinced such revolutionary heroism as has won the admiration of the world's people, even of his executioners.

— Let's forge ahead in the flush of our victories !

— This armoured vehicle has been reduced to a "heap of steel" by Liberation fighters.

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